

Greater Shearwater
Puffinus gravis



Greater Shearwater is told from Cory's by the black cap and black bill.

Cory's Shearwater
Calonectris diomedea



Look for the yellow bill on the Cory's Shearwater, it is also browner in color than the similar Greater Shearwater.



Masked Booby
Sula dactylatra



Masked Booby can be distinguished from Northern Gannet by the dark trailing edge to the wing, black mask and black tail.



Brown Booby
Sula leucogaster



Smaller than Northern Gannet, brown under side on immature birds, pure white on adults.

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Pomarine Jaeger

Stercorarius pomarinus



Pomarine Jaegers are the most common species seen off the Florida coast. They are barrel-chested and bulky looking. The similar Parasitic Jaeger is smaller and slimmer. Adult Pomarine Jaegers have long central tail feathers that look like spoons.

Sooty Tern

Sterna fuscata



Sooty Terns are very dark on the back, pure white underneath. The forked tail shows a small amount of white. Flight is usually more direct than the similar Bridled Tern.

Audubon's Shearwater
Puffinus herminieri



Audubon's Shearwater is small compared with Greater or Cory's Shearwater. It can be separated from Manx Shearwater by the shorter, more rounded wings. Manx Shearwater has longer more pointed wings. From below, look at the dark edges to the forewing and the trailing edge. Manx Shearwater has much more white on the underside of the wings. Audubon's Shearwater has a dark underside of the tail, Manx Shearwater has a white underside of the tail.



Bridled Tern
Sterna anaethetus



Bridled Terns are often seen on floating boards, they have a softer less direct flight than Sooty Terns. There is more white in the tail and the tail is longer and more deeply forked. The upper side is grayish as opposed to black on a Sooty Tern. There is also a white collar across the back of the neck.



Brown Noddy
Anous stolidus



Brown Noddies have a double rounded tail as well as a whitish cap that fades into the back of the neck. They are similar in size to Sooty Terns. They can sometimes be found floating in small groups out on the open ocean. Their flight is direct and usually low over the water.

